



NEWS RELEASE

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District: 1 - Eureka
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Loleta Median Barrier Project Update

The Loleta Median Barrier Project, which was awarded to Mercer Fraser last fall, is well into construction this spring. This safety project will result in a continuous median barrier on Route 101 from Drake Hill Road to Tompkins Hill Road, filling gaps and connecting existing sections of median barrier. When completed, it will eliminate cross median collisions in this area.

The new 8.5 miles of median barrier will be concrete in some areas and metal beam guard rail (MBGR) in others. Working with the California Department of Fish and Game, openings were designed that will be cast into the concrete to allow small animals to pass through. In areas that were identified as large animal crossings MBGR will be installed since it is easier for animals of any size to cross over or under.

Current construction is actively taking place near Fortuna from Drake Hill Road to Main Street. Traffic has been reduced to one lane in each direction while the median of the highway is being prepared for the barrier installation. Motorists are advised to drive with caution and reduce their speed through the work area. The first section of concrete barrier will be installed in early May between Drake Hill Road and 12th Street. Just north of 12th Street about 560' of the existing concrete barrier will be removed and replaced with MBGR. In June the construction activity is expected move to the north from Loleta to Tompkins Hill Road. The project is scheduled to be completed by summer 2008.

Working with other agencies, Caltrans developed a pleasant looking finish. Instead of a standard smooth grey finish, this barrier will be stamped with a rock pattern as it is formed in place. After setting overnight, two additional colors will be applied to complete the rock-like finish.

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